

Robert Armstrong to Andrew Jackson, August 13, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ROBERT ARMSTRONG TO JACKSON.

Nashville, August 13, 1835.

Dear Genl, I returned last night from the Hermitage and have the satisfaction to say that the crop looks well and the negroes and horses are in good Health. The corn crop is made and I think and so does Hobbs that he will *crib* from 12 to 1500 Barrells. he will commence On Monday to take Fodder, has sunnd his wheat (a Large and fine crop) and his Oates, 25 Large Double stacks and the *stables filld* . he makes a fine crop of Cotton and in fact *every thing* , take it all togeather, and I expeck that you have not had so Large and so good a crop for several years. The cotton is very fine and will make more than can be *picked Out or saved* . I have urged Hobbs to have his Gin, screw etc. in good order and ready to commence gining and Baleing as soon as possible. he thinks he will make upwards of *150 Bales* . I have Told him that if he can have 50 Bales ready for the first rise of Water that perhaps they would command more than the 150 Bales would, start down in march.¹ The stock is doing

¹ The following from Edward Hobbs, Jackson's overseer at the Hermitage, to Andrew Jackson, jr., Aug. 26, 1835, shows what were the problems of the overseer at this time:

“ *D'r Sir*, Yours and your fathers of the 6th and 7. was duly recd. last Sunday and your directions concerning the purchase of some mares shall be attended to. I will of cou[r]se get them on as good terms as possible and I will not purchase at all without I can get suitable ones. I will also use my best exertions in selling your riding horses. I could of sold your grey horse long since had it not of been for his eys as also the bay colt. As respects

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the tap for the screw I have written you on the subject long since. I had the pattern made at home by Ned with the assistance of sharp 3 or 4 days to instruct him and it is now at the furnace. Coln. Armstrong and Coln. Love were both hear last Saturday and they informed me the Casting would be ready in a few days. I have the timbers all ready, and so soon as I can get the Casting I will put the press up again. I have the shingles nearly ready for the Covering of the gin house, I shall put them on the side next the Cotton scaffle this week and should we be detained by other Jobs with the other side the Covering will not interfere with the sunning of cotton. We have a great many Jobs to do, I fear more than we can possibly get through with such as fixing our Corn houses so they can be locked up, repairing lot fences and one or two of the negro houses wants new shingles. Ned lost two or three weeks pidling at the pattern which put us back with our Jobs very much. We have all of our winter cloth for the negroes done but two peices to weave, we will soon be done with that Job. Our shues I have not yet began. I have been trying my best to get the leather for three weeks and have not yet got it, however I suppose it will be ready this week and I will then verry soon have them made. I shall finish gathering of fodder this week and I think when I come to stack I shall have a fine chance. I hope you will not have to buy fodder corn and oats next year.

"Our neighbours are becomeing a little alarmed about our cotton crops on account of the verry cold rainy weather. all of our neighbours planted their cotton 3 foot and 3 ½ foot distance and it is now very thick locked up very close. if this weather hold it is impossible it can make a crop. the most of our cotton is planted 4 ½ foot and that is also locked but not so much. I do not think I have ever seen as cool weather in August as the past week, two blankets was hardly sufficient to sleep under, however I am glad to see it turning warm again.

"I was at Mr. Pools a few days since and saw the colts gallop, they appear to be doing finely. Pool makes some conciderable calculations on the black colt and Majr. Donelson,s horse Mombrino he feels verry confident of taking the four mile day with him this fall, he has made a little brush with him and a horse of Sqr. Robertsons that was trained with

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Anville last season and his heels is nothing to Mombrino. Robertson horse was faster a little ways than Anvilles.

“As respects health the People generally are sickly, some sickness Amongst us but nothing serious, I beleive. Aron the Blacksmith and Tom Franklin was both taken sick yesturday, verry hot fever all night. I gave them a large dose of Calomel and Jalap this morning, they are much better tonight. Littleton is laid up with the gonerea, he got it from his wife, he of course will do nothing for two or three weeks. I have nothing pleasing to write you about the house, nothing much a doing, too hands at work. I believe the brick work to the wings not quite finished, the principle building is Covered in and that is all I can say. Coln. Armstrong and Coln. Love is both doing their best with the firm I believe. I think Riffe needs an overseer. Yours verry respectfully

“N. B. I fear my letters are miscaried, I write regularly every week. E. H.”

well, he has a fine stock of Hoggs, doing well on the *clover* , and the cattle and sheep look well and the mares and Colts also considering that he has had *no corn* for them.

With the House we are geting On more slowly than I could wish, still we are doing the best we can. Hands cannot be got. I will leave nothing undone to get some and hope to succeed. I have written to Cincinati, Louisville, Huntsville and Lexington and may do better than we expect but I fear it. I have been up Several times since they commenced puting On the Roof. I saw it commenced and went up day before yesterday and examined it. I am satisfied it will do, that it will not leak and makes a first rate Roof. The workmen were unacquainted with working the metal and it has been more troublesome to get along with but we will have a fine Roof and I hope a Lasting One, it will do much better than I expected. it works as well as copper and I think the plan adopted for puting it On will answer Very Well. Majr. D. crop looks well but his House goes On slowly but if hands can be had we will have them for both Houses. Say to my friend Andrew I will write him in a few days.

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Present me to your family and Beleave me your friend and Servt.